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Title: Need to take effective measures to check resurgence of malaria in North Eastern region.

15.00 hrs.

SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE (JORHAT): Sir, Malaria has again been a killer disease in the North Eastern region.

It is admitted by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) that the situation due to malaria in the region is grim. According to the ICMR report though the population of the region is 3.7 per cent of the total population of the country, it contributes 8 to 10 per cent of the Malaria positive cases and 10 to 20 per cent of the Plasmodium Falciparum infection in the country.

Stable malaria with preponderance of plasmodium falciparum infection, about 60 per cent to 80 per cent is the main characteristic of the disease in the region. Another factor which further compounds the problem of malaria resurgence in the region is the development of chloroquine resistance in plasmodium falciparum (PF).

After the introduction of the National Malaria Eradication programme (MNEP) in 1958, a significant reduction in Malaria cases occurred in all the areas of the country, but it was relatively less marked in the region. The high anophylic habits of the strains of mosquito which act as chief vectors of malaria in the region make the transmission of disease possible even in low density.

During 1991-95 the region experienced resurgence of the disease marked by a rapid increase in malaria incidence as well as geographical expansion of the disease. Malaria and PF incidence increased by 42 and 177 per cent respectively.

It is imperative that Government takes up the matter seriously and evolves effective measures to handle the situation on war footing.